

REMARKS

Applicant requests reexamination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-18, and 20-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lawman, U.S. Patent 5,673,198. The applicant has amended claim 1, canceled claims 5-14, 18-19 and 20-37 and added new claims 38-49. Currently pending are claims 1, 3-4, 15-17, and 38-49 of which claims 1, 38, and 44 are independent.

Lawman discloses a system that monitors a design environment to detect the addition of a circuit component, and "in response to each change produce[s] implementation data on an incremental basis" (col. 2, lines 51-43). The implementation data (also referred to as an implementation netlist 34) is the actual implementation of the logic represented by the circuit and can be used to run simulations of the circuit (e.g., to produce data about physical characteristics of the circuit). Thus, Lawman maintains and updates a netlist or implementation of the circuit and does not disclose or suggest "maintaining a circuit design parameter file for a circuit being designed" as in the applicant's claims 1, 38 and 44.

Claims 3-4, 15-17, 39-43, and 45-49 are patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims on which they depend.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

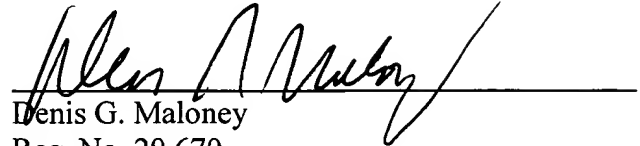
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Respectfully submitted,

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